Explosion of Nitrogen Tank at the Okhla Industrial Area

1016. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the tragic deaths of some workers when a nitrogen tank exploded recently at a private gas firm's premises in the Okhla Industrial Estate: and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the incident and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was an explosion in the Hydrogen Gas Plant of M|s. Rajdhani Gases Private Limited, Okhla Industrial Area, Delhi on 6th October, 1988. As a result of the accident, three persons lost their lives besides damage caused to the hydrogen gas holder and hydrogen gas Cyclinedr filling shed. Based on the enquiries conducted by the Officers of the Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur, the licences granted to the company for filling and storage of hydrogen gas have been suspended and a show cause notice for cancellation of the licences has been issued.

Recommendation of the Delhi Urban Art Commission

1017. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the new norms laid down by Government in respect of the construction of high rise buildings in Delhi are within the framework of the Delhi Master Plan and the various recommenda- made by the Delhi Urban Art Com- mission in this regard; and

(b) the resultant speculation in the land prices in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) 1419 RS—6. Guidelines about regulating high rise construction in Delhi have been recently issued by the Government after considering various points of view. These guidelines take into account the historical character of the city as well as its changing needs, and optimum utilisation of valuable urban land consistent with the needs of containing congestion and pollution and related matters. The norms of ground coverage, FAR, height, density and manner of providing parking laid down in the guidelines are at variance with the regulations of Delhi Master Plan. The relevant provisions of the Master Plan will need to be amended in accordance with the guidelines and DDA have been asked to take necessary action after inviting public objections and suggestions.

(b) lt is not possible to say at this stage how the land prices will be affected by the adoption of the new guidelines.

Prices of imported newspaper

1018. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the percentage of increase in the prices of imported newsprint and the standard and glazed newsprint from the buffer stock of STC since the beginning of 1988, the circumstances under which the prices of newsprint had to be raised and its overall impact on the newpaper industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT):A statement giving details of increase in prices of imported newsprint is enclosed, *(See* below).

The increase is due to overall increase in the international market price of newsprint, adverse" fluctuations in the rupee-dollar rate and increase in freight rate.

No assessment has been made about the impact of increase of prices of imported newsprint on the newspaper industry-

Statement

Prices of Newsprint (Buffer Stock) During 1988 *and Percentage increase in Prices.*

(In Rupees) (Per Metric Tonne)

Quarter	Standard	Bangladesh	Glazed	Super Calender
January-March, 1988 . .	7580	7195	8530	S055
October—December, 1988 (37.20%)	. 10400	9685 (34.61%)	11885 (39.33%)	11285 (40.10%)

Inadequate water supply to areas of Netaji Nagar Extension

1019. SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government employees residing in Upper Storeyed Government quarters in a number of blocks located near College of Commerce and Arts in Netaji Nagar Extension area (particularly flats from E-1141 to E-1188), New Delhi have not been getting water for the last several years; if so, the reasons in details;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in view of the above mentioned situation the residents of these upper storeyed quarters of these blocks have got hand-pumps fitted in their quarters on their own ex penses; if so, the reasons for not increasing the water pressure in the area;

(c) whether Government are aware that inspite of a number of visits made by the Executive Engineer, N.D.M.C. concerned with the area, no remedial steps have so far been taken to ease the situation by rectifying the fault; and

(d) if so, the actual position about the progress made so far in the case and action Government propose to take in the matter to give relief to the residents of these flats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) It is not correct that parts of Netaji Nagar extension have not been getting water supply at all. Municipal water supply is provided to these areas by the New Delhi Municipal Committee for 3 to 4 hours daily. The supply of water to Netaji Nagar is fed from Palara Reservoir of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi from where the supply is erratic. For equitable distribution of water and also for supplying the available quantity of water with pressure an underground tank with boonting arrangements was constructed about 7 -8 years ago but because of increase in demand of water over the years and also because blocks 'D' and 'E' are situated at the tail end of the distribution system besides being situated at a higher level there has been fall in the pressure at the tail end. Some residents have installed motorised pumps for improving their individual water supply and this has further added to general fall in the pressure of water. NDMC is seized of the problem and has prepared a scheme for augmentation of supply of water to deficient pockets in Netaji Nagar by adding two more pumps to the existing Boosting Station and feeding these blocks by an independent water main. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 20 lakhs and is under process for administrative approval and expenditure sanction.

Bonded Labourers in Madhya Pradesh

1020. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that there are